

the cauline bear fascicles of shorter leaves. The flowers are solitary or few (mostly in pairs) on short lateral or terminal branches; the sepals are obtuse; and the anthers are distinctly shorter than the filaments. With such marked vegetative and floral characters *J. subtilis* seems clearly distinct from *J. pelocarpus* with which it has recently been associated.

Its bibliography and stations are:

JUNCUS SUBTILIS, E. Meyer, Syn. Luz. 31; Laharpe, Mon. 135. *J. fluitans*, Michaux, Fl. i. 191, not Lam. *J. verticillatus*, Pursh, Fl. i. 237, in part, not Pers. *J. uliginosus*, var. *subtilis*, Hook. Fl. Bor.-Am. ii. 191. *J. pelocarpus*, var. *subtilis*, Engelm. Trans. St. Louis Acad. ii. 456; Gray, Man. Ed. 5, 541; Coville in Britton & Brown, Ill. Fl. i. 390. *J. pelocarpus*, var. *fluitans*, Buchenau, Mon. 283. — QUEBEC, Chicoutimi (*F. A. Michaux*, according to Prof. Ovide Brunet): CANADA, without station (*Bosc*, according to Meyer): NEWFOUNDLAND, mud near Bay St. George, Aug. 25, 1897 (*A. C. Waghorne*): MAINE, margin of Brassua Lake, Somerset County, 1871 (*Chas. E. Smith*); Mattawamkeag Lake, Sept. 7, 1897, and margin of St. John River, Van Buren, Sept. 18, 1900 (*M. L. Fernald*); margin of St. John River, Fort Kent, Aug. 10, 1901 (*E. F. Williams, B. L. Robinson, & M. L. Fernald*).

Juncus fluitans, Lam., for which Michaux mistook his Chicoutimi plant is a form of *J. bulbosus*, L. (*J. supinus*, Moench) and is to be expected in northern New England and adjacent Canada. This plant, which has been collected in Newfoundland by Robinson and von Schrenk, differs from *J. subtilis* in its coarser habit, usually bulbous-thickened base, several-flowered heads and more pointed sepals.

GRAY HERBARIUM.

LATHYRUS TUBEROSUS IN VERMONT.

L. R. JONES.

SPECIMENS of an unusual and very pretty sweet pea, *Lathyrus tuberosus*, L., were recently sent to me from Vergennes, Vermont, by Miss Ruth Fisher. This species is a native of Asia and eastern Europe. It occurs also at a single station in England according to

Hooker, but so far as I can learn it has not heretofore been reported from America. This seems strange for the flowers are almost equal in color and fragrance to those of the common sweet pea although only two-thirds as large. *L. tuberosus* is a perennial with creeping root-stocks bearing numerous tubers or tuberous roots. These have an agreeable flavor, suggestive of green peas, and are reputed edible. It is not only perfectly hardy in Vermont but is abundantly able to persist as a weed. Miss Fisher has watched its development and spread in a moist meadow during some ten years. At first only a few plants occurred, but now it is scattered over a number of acres and for a distance of forty rods. The land has been under cultivation with corn and potato crops during a part of this period and the persistent spreading of the species under these conditions has finally alarmed the owner of the field. It forms dense circular patches resembling *Vicia Cracca* in habit and like that species it smothers the grasses and clovers in the area where it occurs.

Its mode of introduction is a mystery. The location precludes the idea that it is a garden escape. Some horses were brought to this farm from France fifteen or more years ago and possibly it was introduced at that time. I recently showed the plant to Mr. F. H. Horsford of Charlotte and he at once recognized it as the same plant that seedsmen have sent to him under the name *Lathyrus rotundifolius*. The identification of the plant as *L. tuberosus* has, however, been confirmed at the National Herbarium. Mr. Horsford has had the plant in his nursery at Charlotte for some time but he has recently omitted it from his catalogues partly because he considered it too likely to become a weed pest. I am confident that the plant is in Vermont to stay unless unusual efforts are made to eradicate it. Since it has been distributed somewhat by seedsmen it probably occurs in other places in this country as a garden escape.

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